

H.U. Co-ed Who Failed Medical School Course Takes Life

Washington Tribune
Washington, D.C. 12-16-44

Mrs. Anne B. Weadon, 25, candidate for a degree with the medical class of Howard University, December 22, took her life Wednesday morning and was discovered at 1:15 p.m., when tenants detected odors of gas which were traced to her apartment and notified her father, Dr. Hartford R. Burwell, head of Burwell's Hospital, 2024 Sherman Avenue, N.W.

Mrs. Weadon who lived at 151 McGuire's Funeral Home will have charge of the burial, but Sgt. Albert S. Weadon, stationed at Fort Devens, Mass. In addition to her father, she is survived by her mother and sister, Cordelia Burwell, studying to be a nurse in Mercy Hospital, Philadelphia.

Failed in Studies

Dr. Burwell said Thursday that his daughter had become despondent over adverse reports in a letter on December 6, from the university's medical board relative to deficiencies in her studies.

The letter, signed by Dr. Johnson, acting head of the medical department, informed Mrs. Weadon: "It was the consensus (of the board) that your deficiencies are such that they cannot be cleared by a re-examination. Therefore, an additional trimester of work will be required."

The three months' additional work, Dr. Burwell disclosed, would have meant that Mrs. Weadon would have been unable to begin her internship, January 1, in the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, as the institution's first colored appointee.

Dr. Burwell said he believed his daughter was a normal personality and the sole cause of her act was despondency.

He added that despite the deficiencies in study, Mrs. Weadon had been a good student and he believed she would have reflected credit on the medical profession.

It is understood that Mrs. Weadon was to have assisted her father after her internship, in

78-Year-Old Man Commits Suicide

Over Illness

It took an unusual situation to disprove a favorite axiom among Negro Americans this week—that Negroes do not commit suicide.

78-year old Monroe Jefferson... who lived alone at 702 Savoy St., shot himself to death with a shotgun at 11:30 Sunday night.

Those who knew him well stated that he committed the deed because of the ill-health he had suffered for some time.

Mr. Jefferson was well-known in the section of the city in which he resided. He act of self-destruction excited comment in Negroes circles throughout the city.

His was one of the few acts of suicide among local Negroes in several years... although there has been a marked increase in such acts during the past decade, compared to figures established over the years previous.

One of the city's most prominent local morticians has charge of the body and not much information about Mr. Jefferson's past was forthcoming from them.

The funeral was held this week.

Kills Himself After Slaying Married Lover

New York, N.Y.

SELMA, Ala.—An alleged illicit love affair led to the slaying of Mrs. Willie Lee Dunham, 22, of 418 Water

Street, and the suicide of Samuel J. Brooks, 45, of 1509 Washington Street.

Brooks, who is reported to have been carrying on an illicit love affair with Mrs. Dunham for a number of years, allegedly shot the woman after they had quarrelled and she had fled from her own house to that of a friend.

After the slaying, it is said that Brooks went to his own home, informed his wife that he was going to kill himself, and requested her to go out for witnesses. Before Mrs. Brooks could determine the reasons for her husband's statements, the house was surrounded by law enforcement officers. After an attempt to escape, Brooks allegedly shot himself with fatal effect.

30-Yr-Old Woman Ends Life by Gas

Suicide Note Hints at Unhappy Love Affair

"SO LONG, BADNESS"

Miss Wanda Douglas, Telephone Supervisor

BALTIMORE
The note left by Miss Wanda Douglas, pretty 30-year-old telephone company supervisor who committed suicide by gas early Wednesday morning, hinted of an unhappy love affair. Police, called by tenants of the apartment house at 714 Madison Avenue, where Miss Douglas lived alone, found her in bed in her nightgown. She was pronounced dead on arrival at Provident Hospital.



On a bureau the officers found a note written in red pencil which read, "So long, Badness. I wish you all the happiness in the world. I did love you. See you there."

Four Gas Jets Turned On stove were turned on, police reported.

Fellow tenants in the house said Miss Douglas had shown no recent signs of despondency, nor could they recall any unusual incidents during her eleven-month stay in the house which might have led her to take her own life.

Miss Douglas was at one time a Social Security Board employee. On her application at the telephone company, she gave Chicago as her home address, stating that her parents were dead. She named as her closest relative Dunbar Mays of the Dunbar Apartments in Chicago.

The body is now at the Robert Elliott Funeral Home, 1129 N. Caroline Street, pending services which are awaiting the arrival of relatives from Chicago.

Medical Student Victim of Gas

WASHINGTON

Mystery shrouds the death of popular Mrs. Anne Burwell Weeden, 24-year-old Howard University medical school senior whose lifeless body clad only in her night clothes was found in her gas-filled apartment at 151 S Street, Northwest, Wednesday.

The tragic discovery was made by Mrs. Mable Barker another tenant in the apartment house when a friend of the young woman after trying vainly to reach her by phone requested that Mr. Barker investigate.

Detects Gas

After receiving no response to her ring, Mrs. Barker detecting the odor of gas escaping from under the door, immediately called the young woman's father, Dr. Hartford R. Burwell, 2824 Sherman Avenue, director of the Burwell's Private Hospital, who advised her to break down the door.

With the help of Robert Pearson, another tenant, she gained entrance to find the young woman's lifeless body and all five jets on the stove open. The victim was pronounced dead by Dr. Dorothy Ferebee.

Detective Sgt. Howard C. Hoffman of the Homicide Division in a statement declared that Dr. Burwell had expressed the belief that his daughter had ended her life due to disappointment in not being able to graduate with her class this semester.

Interrogated by the AFRO, Dr. John Lawlah, director of the Howard University Medical School, declared:

"It would be an awful disappointment if I thought Mrs. Weeden ended her life because of

something she knew about as early as last September.

"Due to illness and time lost from her studies she was aware that she would not graduate this February. Besides, no students have been notified as yet about their ratings. Mrs. Weeden seemed in a jovial mood as late as Tuesday, and talked with instructors about certain subjects to make up. I think the cause goes much deeper than this."

On Tuesday evening, Mrs. Weeden was also in a pleasant mood when she had dinner at the Club Bengasi, where she conversed with friends to whom she gave no hint of impending tragedy.

Mother Talks

"I am convinced that my daughter was despondent over her failure to graduate," Mrs. Burrell, mother of the victim, told the ARFO this (Thursday) morning.

"Anne was elated over the fact that she had been accepted to do her internship at the Women's and Children's Infirmary in New York, which would have made her the first student of color admitted."

D. C. Physician's Daughter Commits Suicide; Mystery

WASHINGTON (ANP). — Deep, dark mystery surrounds the suicide of Ann Burwell Wheeden, daughter of the prominent Washington physician and private hospital owner, Dr. H. H. Burwell. The community known was shocked when Wednesday the news of the suicide spread.

A senior in the medical school at Howard university, Mrs. Wheeden lived in her own apartment. Her husband, Sgt. Albert Wheeden, is in a New England camp.

Mrs. Wheeden is believed to have taken her life because of a notice and warning that she would not graduate her class. Already, her application had been accepted for an internship in an out of town hospital which specialized in female diseases and she was quite happy that her application had been accepted.

Dr. John W. Lawlah of the school of medicine declared he would consider it very unfortunate if the deed were attributable to the fact that Mrs. Wheeden was not to graduate with her class, for she had been notified in September that this was the case.

Although it could not be confirmed, it is rumored that financial and parental difficulties dating some time back had played an important role in the young woman's life.

It was stated that these complaints for slightly over 6,000 complaints for burglary, robbery and larceny were made already this year, with still three more days to go.

62 Suicides In Ga. — Atlanta Daily World

It was stated that these complaints listed the races as about 50 percent of the cases had been cleared up by city officials.

City: 3 Colored

During this week the bureau had more than 100 complaints on these violations.

Army Lt. Puts Bullet in Brain to End Life

APRO-American Balt. Md

12-30-44

PHILADELPHIA — Exactly a week after the suicide of his friend, Miss Wanda Douglass, in Baltimore, Second Lt. Wellington S. Bethel, 28, was found with a bullet through his brain here Wednesday morning.

Believed to be a suicide victim, Lieutenant Bethel's body was discovered by his sister, Miss Sara Bethel, at their home at 718 Preston Street. He was pronounced dead at Presbyterian Hospital.

Lieutenant Bethel, who was commissioned September 4, 1943, was assigned in July to the Officer Replacement Pool at Edgewood Arsenal, Md. Military authorities report that he had been AWOL since last week end.

Investigating officers reported that he apparently had been brooding over "the suicide of his fiancée." He was married to the former Miss Mary E. Williams, a Wac at Fort Breckenridge, Ky.

Miss Douglass, a Baltimore telephone supervisor, committed suicide by gas in her apartment at 714 Madison Avenue Wednesday, a week ago.

On a nearby bureau, police found a note which read "So long, Badness. I wish you all the happiness in the world. I did love you. See you there."

Takes Poison When Trapped

AFRO-AMERICAN

Balt. Md.
J. Shaw Had Stolen
Gas Ration Coupons
WAS BANK JANITOR

OPA Agents Lose
Chance to Prosecute

12-30-44
Apprehended by detectives and OPA agents with thousands of gas ration stamps stolen from the First National Bank, John Shaw, 38, a janitor at the bank, drank a fatal dose of poison on Friday.

Cornered in the basement of his home at 645 N. Fifty-seventh Street when an attempt to escape failed, Shaw, termed the brains of the black market game, drank several ounces of poison.

He was taken to Misericordia Hospital near midnight and died of acute poisoning the following

Suspect Commits Suicide As OPA Accuses Him of Gas Coupon Thefts

Tribune

Philadelphia, Pa.

12-23-44

The Office of Price Administration announced early Thursday the solution of theft of several hundred gallons worth of ration coupons, as OPA agents trapped John Shaw, 51, of 57th street near Cambridge in his home after he drank a bottle of poison. He later died in a hospital!

The coupons were stolen from the First National Bank of Philadelphia, where Shaw worked for the past seven months as janitor.

A group of agents went to Shaw's home shortly before midnight. Mrs. Shaw answered the door and said that her husband was not at home. The investigators heard some confusion in the rear of the house, and then two men who had been stationed in the rear of the house came in with the suspect who had attempted to escape with part of his loot.

12-23-44
According to detectives Shaw admitted the thefts and in showing them where the remainder of the loot was hidden, made his suicide attempt.

Accompanied by one of the detectives they went down into the cellar. There Shaw suddenly grappled a bottle of poison placing it in his mouth, before the detective knocked it from him. He was taken to Misericordia Hospital where he died twenty-four hours later.

OPA said that Shaw's trail was first picked up on December 1, and they got later information from a coupon salesman they arrested Tuesday at 53rd street and Haverford avenue.

Woman Kills Self Over Band Man

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
"Suicide Note" Tells of Love for Trombonist in Lionel Hampton's Band

Because she "could" have" Freddie Beckett, a member of Lionel Hampton's Orchestra, an attractive young white woman committed suicide early Wednesday by turning on the gas in her kitchenette at 14 W. 107th St.

She was Elaine Steele, 28, who formerly worked as a waitress at 1234 Sixth Ave.

Miss Steele's body was discovered at 9:30 a. m., by her roommate, Delores Granger, who reported that four gas jets "were going full blast" when she arrived home.

Police concluded that the victim had been despondent, judging from the note left behind. Among other things, Miss Steel wrote:

"Freddie is my only love. If I can't have him, I won't have anybody." 2-5-44

At noon Wednesday, the musician had not been located. It was learned, however, that Beckett works as a trombonist in the Lionel Hampton Band.

Lonesome Wife Commits Suicide

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON
Believed to have been despondent over her husband's unexplained absences from home, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Gilliam, 34, killed herself by inhaling gas in the kitchen of her apartment Wednesday morning. 1-29-44

Police said that Mrs. Gilliam was known to have brooded over the failure of her husband, William Gilliam, a railroad man, to come home on the nights he was off duty, and that she had been drinking excessively for three days before the tragedy. 1-29-44

It was also reported that the victim had sent for her mother the night before, but the mother did not come to the home until after Mrs. Gilliam's death.

All the jets in the kitchen range had been turned on and a rug placed against the bottom of the door to prevent the gas from escaping.

Boy, 11, Foiled in Suicide Try



Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
1-29-44

Jack Meikle, 11-year-old New York youngster, shown putting up a struggle following his unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide by leaping from a third floor window. The boy had previously slashed his mother's hand with a knife and then clambered to the outside sill of an open window, where he proclaimed his intention of jumping. After 40 minutes he was pulled inside and taken to Bellevue Hospital for observation.

H.U. Student with 4-F Draft Status Takes His Own Life

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
1-15-44

Police Report Law Student, 24, Grieved Because He Couldn't Join His 2 Brothers in the Army

WASHINGTON.
Grieved because he was unable to join his brothers in the army because of a 4-F classification, Niel Owens, 24, a Howard University student, committed suicide Friday by hanging himself in his room at 2827 Thirteenth Street, Northwest.

Police records revealed that Owens had been brooding for some time over the fact that two of his brothers were in the armed forces and that, he too, wanted to serve his country in the same capacity.

Last Thursday he went to the local draft board here in an effort to have his classification status changed but the board referred him to his board in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Says He Asked for Gun

On arriving at his home here, he allegedly asked Prescott Jackson, another roomer in the house, if he knew where he could get a gun; he wanted to kill himself.

Becoming alarmed, Jackson informed Mrs. Lillian Stewart, landlady, who immediately phoned Dean William B. West of Howard University about Owens's actions.

Notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Paul Cornely and Dean West had an appointment with Owens relative to his condition Friday morning, they came to the home where they found the partly-clad body hanging by the neck from an iron pipe in the ceiling of the bed room. Dr. Cornely pronounced him dead from strangulations.

Made Noose of Shirt, Belt

The victim had improvised a noose out of his topshirt and belt, stood on a chair and, after adjusting the noose, apparently kicked it away and dropped the few feet to his death. 1-15-44

Mrs. Stewart told the AFRO that Owens had roomed at her house for three years, was a law school student at Howard and one of the finest men she had ever met. He did not drink nor use tobacco, she said, adding that he had been a postal clerk at the Pentagon until two weeks ago.

She declared that Owens just seemed to crack in the last week. His father, Isaac Owens of Brooklyn, claimed the body and made arrangement for burial.

HINT SUICIDE IN CO-ED'S DEATH

Bee-Chicago, Ill.

The sudden death Friday of one of the community's most popular members of the teen-age social set, and daughter of a prominent Woodlawn family, is beclouded this week by rumors that the 19-year-old girl has committed suicide. 2-13-44

The BEE's efforts to obtain details of the tragedy or to verify these reports were unsuccessful at press time Wednesday night.

The home of the deceased girl, comely and popular Mabel Langrum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Langrum, 30, Parkway was contacted, but as both parents were out, Mr. Langrum's mother, preferred not to discuss the tragedy.

Inquest Continued

Miss Langrum was found dead at 1 o'clock Friday morning, according to police at Woodlawn station. An inquest was held at Provident hospital later that day. At that time the hearing was continued until Feb. 25, to permit a "chemical analysis" of the dead girl's organs, Deputy Coroner Robert Martin stated. 2-13-44

The BEE learned from another source, however, that Martin was in possession of three alleged shrimps. 2-13-44

"suicide notes", and that in the opinion of this informant the inquest could have been closed at that time. It is believed, therefore, that the coroner's action was to protect the dead girl's parents, both of whom are well known in social and civic circles.

Nurse Hints Lysol Poisoning

Reports of suicide were alleged to have received impetus in a chance remark made by one of the nurses present when the girl's body was examined at Provident hospital.

This nurse—the BEE's efforts to establish her identity were also unsuccessful as records of the case were not available—is alleged to have commented on the redolent fumes of lysol about the body.

Police records gave the cause of death as due to poisoning. Another report has it that the young girl was stricken with ptomaine poisoning after eating shrimps. 2-13-44

trying to solve.

Miss Whisonant was found unconscious in her kitchen with all gas jets open at 5:30 a.m.

Her cousins, Miss Chinetta Whisonant, who were out of the city at the time of her death, had gained considerable renown locally as a portrait painter. A portrait of Barbara Stanwyck, the movie actress, painted by her, occupies a feature spot in the art room of Phelps Vocational School, where she studied drafting in 1943. Numerous original portraits adorn the walls of her home, and one of the kidnapping

Death of Only Child Puzzles Her Parents

WASHINGTON
Why did talented Thelma Whisonant, 24, former Howard University art student and employee of the Census Department (Suitland, Md.), commit suicide in her home at 2124 Second Street, Northwest, early Wednesday morning?
This is the question that friends, relatives and the police are

Ex-H.U. Co-ed Takes Own Life

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Thelma Whisonant

Is Victim of Gas
3-4-44
MOTIVE SOUGHT

ped Lindbergh baby attracted wide attention.

Talent Noted Early

Her mother told the AFRO that she had first shown artistic ability at the age of 12, and at one time had won an art scholarship.

Census officials said that she had been employed there as a punch card operator and typist since November, 1940, and had a good record.

The Rev. Robert L. Jeans, pastor of the Tabor Presbyterian Church, 150 S Street, Northwest, officiated at the funeral services, Saturday. Interment was in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

Other relatives include a cousin, Lawrence Whisonant, baritone singer, who was under study to Todd Duncan, former star of "Porgy and Bess."

CONVICT KILLS HIMSELF AS ESCAPE PLAN FAILS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, July 17—The girl, well-developed past her years, in mind and body, was shot through the neck, the bullet passing from the rear to the front, and spending itself in a guard, on the forehead, then killed himself with a home-made knife when his plans to escape failed.

Saunders had filed through a luging as a result of the wound on his cell door permitting him to slide the bolt open whenever he wished. He arranged a dummy on his cot, then left the cell and approached Mr. Lichtenberger, who was sitting at a desk. Saunders struck him three times on the forehead with the razor-sharp hatchet.

Other guards heard the noise and arrived to see Saunders running up a winding stairway.

They followed and found the prisoner lying in a pool of blood. He had stabbed himself twice in the chest and died almost immediately.

In a corner of Saunders' cell guards found a forty-foot bed sheet rope, with an improvised grappling hook on the end, which he supposedly intended to use to scale the outer wall of the prison.

Mr. Lichtenberger was reported in a serious condition at Graduate Hospital.

Saunders, sent to prison in April, 1936, was serving fifteen to thirty years for a hold-up.

The father is believed to have asked his daughter to pick up some clothes laying on the floor in a closet in her room. As she stooped to carry out his order M. Bryan is believed to have fired, the bullet striking her in the neck and lodging in the wall. Another went wild.

Some time later, Catherine called police and told officers appearing on the scene that she "was hurt" but didn't know how it happened. She didn't hear the sound of a pistol explosion, she

Attempted Murder, Suicide Is Theory In Death of Charles Bryan, Churchman

8-26-44

Attempted murder and suicide is the theory advanced in the fatal shooting of Charles E. Bryan, 61, ardent churchman of the 1200 block of Hamlin Street, N.E., and the serious wounding of his daughter, Catherine, 15, of 210 S Street, N.W., at the last named address on Saturday.

Brooding over his motherless daughter's welfare and her apparent unresponsiveness to his anxieties and support are believed to have led Mr. Bryan, long known for his cheerfulness and civic service, to have committed the tragic act.

Still in Hospital

The girl, well-developed past her years, in mind and body, was shot through the neck, the bullet passing from the rear to the front, and spending itself in a guard, on the forehead, then killed himself with a home-made knife when his plans to escape failed.

The act was committed at the home of Mrs. Susie M. Abbott, 210 S Street, with whom Mr. Bryan's daughter, a student of the Manassas (Va.) Industrial School last year, roomed.

A reconstruction of the attempted murder and suicide is summed up by Det. Sgts. Robert V. Murray and George W. Cook of the homicide squad, as follows:

Mr. Bryan left his stopping place before 8 a.m., Saturday, in apparent good spirits, but with a .38 caliber pistol in his pocket. He visited his daughter, as he was wont to do.

Shot While Stooping

The father is believed to have asked his daughter to pick up some clothes laying on the floor in a closet in her room. As she stooped to carry out his order M. Bryan is believed to have fired, the bullet striking her in the neck and lodging in the wall. Another went wild.

Some time later, Catherine called police and told officers appearing on the scene that she "was hurt" but didn't know how it happened. She didn't hear the sound of a pistol explosion, she

The wound is thought to have shocked the girl and she lay in semi-conscious condition in the closet momentarily, bleeding profusely. She told officers, however, that when she turned out of the closet, she saw her father with the pistol to his head.

Pistol by His Side

Mr. Bryan apparently thought that he had killed his daughter and sat on the side of the bed to commit his last act in the tragedy. The slug pierced the brain from the top of his skull. The pistol was found by his side.

Some thought that Mr. Bryan had a permit to carry a revolver since he was held up of his collections as an insurance agent some time ago. Sergeant Murray said a check of the records disclose that he had no permit, but Catherine said he had had the pistol as long as she could remember. A box of shells fitting the revolver was found at Mr. Bryan's rooming place.

The coroner's office has as yet offered no official version in the case, pending further questioning of Catherine. Mr. Bryan's body was sent to Americus, Ga., this week, for interment, following funeral services at McGuire funeral parlors, Tuesday.

Last Rites Held for Churchman Mysteriously Killed by Bullet

The pleasant expression of sunshine which lit the face of Charles E. Bryan, 61, of the 1200 block of Hamlin Street, N.E., during his lifetime, played upon his features as the body reposed in the McGuire Funeral Home, Tuesday, during a brief funeral service conducted by the Rev. J. C. Beckett, pastor of Metropolitan AME Church.

Mr. Bryan died suddenly under mysterious circumstances with a bullet wound in the head, Saturday, at 210 S Street, Northwest, shot in the neck at the same time. Mr. Bryan was found dead in bed with a pistol beside him. The bullet crashed into the skull from the top of the head. Officers are

A Late Chorine



DORIS O'NEIL, popular dancing beauty, is believed to have taken her life in Los Angeles a fortnight ago, where she took up residence four months ago after becoming the bride of a serviceman. The chorine was one of the original Regalettes in Chicago and had "front lined" at New York's Cotton Club, the Windy City's Grand Terrace Cafe and other popular spots. Several years ago she married Joe Peterson and had one son, Joe Jr., who lived with her at the time of her death. The cause of the suicide was not learned at the time of this writing.

awaiting the daughter's improvement so that they may get a "coherent" story from her about incidents leading up to the death of the respected churchman.

A small but sorrowful and tearful group of Metropolitan's officers and members began moving into McGuire's at least half an hour before the service set for 10 a.m. Notice of the funeral was not widespread.

The church's choir sang in the offering, resolutions were read from the Men's Bible Class and the Junior Stewards' Board by G. F. Stanton, of which Mr. Bryan was vice-president. A. B. Simpson, president of the board, was among the mourners, also Jefferson S. Coage, former recorder of deeds. Mrs. Julia West Hamilton also spoke touchingly of Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Harrison, superintendent of the Sunday School, told of his fourteen years' association with the deceased. All lauded the faithfulness and energy of Mr. Bryant in all church activities.

"Pleasant Word for All"

"He was one of the most faithful men in the church," said Rev. Mr. Beckett. "He was one of the few officers who came to church both morning and night."

"He was a friendly man and had a pleasant word for everybody. He did not care how much you criticized him, he would come back with a smile."

"We do not know his relationship with his Heavenly Father; that's none of our business, as every one has to answer for himself."

Was Widower

Mr. Bryan had been long known here as an insurance and oil salesman and at one time was connected with the Adult Education Program.

He was a widower, his wife having died many years ago. He was the father of Catherine, who did not attend the funeral; brother of Mrs. Mary Morris, Mrs. Naomi Flanagan, Mrs. Ruth Lee, Homer, John S. McKinley, and Arthur Bryan.

For interment, the body was taken to Americus, Ga., where the 83-year-old mother of the deceased lives.

Lieutenant Bethel, who was commissioned September 4, 1943, was assigned in July to the Officer Re-Placement Pool at Edgewood Arsenal, Md. Military authorities reported that he had been AWOL since last week end.

Investigating officers reported that he apparently had been brooding over "the suicide of his fiancée." He was married to the former Miss Mary E. Williams, a former Miss Sara Wac at Fort Breckenridge, Ky.

Miss Douglass, a Baltimore telephone supervisor, committed suicide by gas in her apartment at

Army Lt. Puts Bullet in Brain to End Life

Wednesday morning.

Believed to be a suicide victim, Lieutenant Bethel's body was discovered by his sister, Miss Sara Wac, at their home at 718 Pres-ton Street. He was pronounced dead at Presbyterian Hospital.

Exactly a week after the suicide of his friend, Miss Wanda Douglass, in Baltimore, Second Lt. Wellington S. Bethel, 28, was found with a bullet through his brain here

ROANOKE, Va. — The Rev. James R. Johnson Jr., pastor of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church and president of the local NAACP branch, walked out of the interracial mass meeting in the Green Memorial Methodist Church, white, here on Sunday afternoon. This meeting was in observance of Race Relations Day. 2-24-45



REV. JAMES R. JOHNSON

tribution toward the progress of race relations in Roanoke and thus in our world. 2-24-45
The Rev. E. E. Chappell, prominent minister of Suffolk, Va., who was guest of Rev. Mr. Johnson, also left the meeting. Mr. Chappell could not be contacted for his reaction. Music for the program was furnished by the Addison High School chorus and the Rev. W. M. Scott, vice chairman of the local Interracial Commission, acted as master of ceremonies. Dr. Philip M. Widenhouse, director of Research and Church Planning of the Washington, D. C., Federation of Churches, was guest speaker.

Church, white, here on Sunday afternoon. This meeting was in observance of Race Relations Day. 2-24-45

Rev. Mr. Johnson said he walked out because of the segregated seating arrangement. "I refuse to be a part of a meeting, especially when held in the house of God for the betterment of race relations, and at the same time and place practice segregation."

PLANNED NO SEGREGATION

In speaking of the incident the Rev. Edward Dowdy, white, said in a written statement, "The committee's only real disappointment in the meeting was the unfortunate and unplanned for segregated seating of the audience. The committee had planned definitely that this year's meeting follow the successful experience of last year's non-segregating seating plan, but apparently through a lack of clear instructions to the ushers, who has come in from various churches, the pattern of segregation set by early comers was followed as others came in."

The committee is regretting his failure of their plan for a non-segregation meeting, hopes to profit by this year's experience and looks forward to an even greater meeting next year."

"In the meantime the committee is already beginning to plan to have a Negro speaker next year of national reputation who will make a further con-